



2023-2024

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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Visual Arts – Objectives

The Minnesota State High School League Visual Arts Festival will:

1. ***Be compatible with the standards of comprehensive art education*** and the goals and objectives of the competing high school's art education programs.
2. ***Support the instruction, standards, thought process, and creative problem-solving*** strategies involved in artistic learning.
3. ***Provide an opportunity for student-centered learning*** through challenging, authentic, intellectual and artistic work.
4. ***Stress the process of creation, the steps of careful artisanship and the understanding of materials*** with sensitivity and inventiveness in student artwork.
5. ***Encourage and reward the creation of art that reflects personal interpretation***, engagement, feelings, opinions, and/or individual viewpoints.
6. ***Support every student's quest to find and develop personal media, style, and tastes.***

7. **Advocate personal investment in looking at, responding to, organizing, and expressing their** subject through various materials, techniques and processes.
8. **Provide positive rewarding experience** in acknowledging student's artistic efforts.
9. **Provide a learning opportunity for students** through an experienced adjudicator's evaluation procedure and established judging criteria.

Visual Arts – Categories

Each Member School may enter up to 18 works of art at the Subsection or Section Levels. No more than one-third of the allowed artworks are to be submitted in any one category per Member School. Each student may submit artwork(s) in one or more categories.

1. **Drawing:** This category includes works in pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon, etc.
2. **Painting:** This category includes works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, casein, tempera, etc.
3. **Sculpture:** This category includes 3-dimensional works which include, but are not limited to clay, metals, wood, fibers, etc.
4. **Film-based Photography:** All photographs (color or black and white) produced using standard dark room procedures.
5. **Digital Photography:** All photographic images produced using a digital camera that may or may not be enhanced using software including but not limited to Adobe Photoshop.
6. **Video Art:** Video created and edited using film or digital technology and have some or all the elements of media arts. The supplying of the technology needed to view video artwork being submitted is the responsibility of the school that is submitting the work to make arrangements for.
7. **Computer-based Artwork:** All images, still or animated, that are created using computer software programs. In the case of animated works, the same stipulation for viewing video art applies here as well.
8. **Crafts:** This category includes crafts such as book arts, paper crafts, stained glass, fibers, and jewelry.
9. **Print Making:** This category includes relief printing, silk screening, intaglio, processed hard copy print, etc.
10. **Ceramics:** This category includes all hand built or wheel thrown clay constructions that are primarily functional as opposed to sculptural in terms of intent.
11. **2D Mixed Media / Collage:** This category includes any 2-dimensional artwork that employs multiple media and /or collage that would not fit into a drawing or painting category.
12. **Graphic Design:** This category includes any artwork that combines image and typography using art and technology to convey a message from a client to an audience.

Visual Arts – Qualifications and Instructions

1. **The artwork must be original.** If it is inspired by images not the students' own, the work must be significantly changed. If there is any doubt as to the originality of the work, the instructor should not submit it.
2. **All submitted artwork must have been completed within the 12-month period immediately prior to the Section Festival.**
3. **Artworks submitted to earlier Minnesota State High School League Art Festivals cannot be resubmitted.**
4. **At the school level, instructors should review the works submitted by their students** and select the works that best meet with the judging criteria.
5. **Students must title all pieces of artwork and attach the artwork identification to the back or bottom of the artwork,** each piece must include an artwork release form and an artist statement.
6. **Entries limited to 18 works of art per school at the Subsection or Section level(s).**
7. **No more than one-third of the allowed are to be submitted in any one category per school.**
These two already mentioned above

Visual Arts – Subject Matter Selection

Freedom of choice is granted to all schools in selecting subject matter used for the artwork entered into this festival. Good judgment must be used in the determination of the work's subject matter and appearance. As a school-sponsored, educational activity, vulgar or plainly offensive material is not allowed. Instructors are expected to edit and adjust the subject matter and appearance of the artwork to meet local and community standards.

Visual Arts – Section Visual Arts Festivals

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each school will take part in the Section Festival, governed by the Administrative Region to which they are assigned.

Exception: A school that is in an Administrative Region that does not host a festival; or a school that has unavoidable conflicts with the date of their Section Festival may request permission to take part in a Festival in another Section. To do so they must have the permission of their own Region and the Region which is hosting the Festival. Contact your Region Secretary. Permission should be requested at least two months prior to the Section Festival to allow for proper planning. **Note:** Schools may only take part in one Section Festival.

Each Administrative Region will run its own Section Festival. The Region Committee will make date, site, schedule, Event Manager, and other details. Section Festivals are to be scheduled after the end of the winter sports season.

Date, site, and basic format should be determined no later than October of each year. This information must be shared with each registered school, along with information and deadlines needed to register for the Section Festival.

Specific information and guidelines for Section Managers will be posted on the MSHSL Website.

SCHEDULE

A recommended schedule for a Subsection or Section Festival is below.

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Set up Artwork Displays
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Judging Entries
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Educational Learning Activities for Participants
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Public Viewing While Judges Share Critiques
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Awards Program
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Take Down and Depart

ARTWORK PREPARATION

1. Three-dimensional artwork must not exceed 130 inches in height and girth combined [height + (2 x width) + (2 x depth)]. Note: Multiple pieces that act together as one must still meet these size restrictions.
2. Three-dimensional artwork must be self-supporting.
3. Two-dimensional artwork must not exceed 4' x 6' in dimension. Note: Multiple pieces that act together as one must still meet these size restrictions.
4. Two-dimensional artwork such as watercolor paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs must be ready for hanging and matted or dry mounted on BLACK AND/OR WHITE mat board and it is recommended that they are hinged to FOAM BOARD OR CORRUGATED CARDBOARD backing material. **(Do not use paper as a mat, poster board as backing material or masking tape as a hinge).**
5. If the entry is on stretched canvas, the edges must be painted or taped unless the work is framed in some fashion.
6. Two-dimensional artwork must be ready to hang as determined by the Section Festival Director. The work may not be framed unless the artwork is done on canvas board or poster board and a lightweight frame is necessary for hanging capabilities. The work may be matted or framed depending on which is more appropriate. Care should be taken that the work is not too heavy which could cause problems with its being hung safely. Frames with glass are not recommended due to breakage and difficulty with viewing due to reflection issues.
7. Two-dimensional artwork that could be potentially damaged because of the instability of the medium used (charcoal, chalk pastel), should be covered for transporting so that it is not damaged prior to being hung.
8. Artwork Identification - Each artwork must have two identification forms, one is to be attached to the back (2-D work) or bottom (3-D work) and the other is to be attached to the front of the work after the judging is completed. (Forms available on the League Website).
9. Each artwork submitted is to have an accompanying "Artist Statement". This is to be attached to the artwork and is a part of the jurying process. The Artist Statement should be word-processed and is not to exceed 200 words. It should: a) describe the use of art concepts using vocabulary of the art form, b) analyze how form and content reveal the message of the artwork.
10. Numbers will be provided at the show and must be attached to the back of each name tag. These numbers will be used as the only ID for the artwork until the judging has been completed. At that time, the entry form will be used to ID the artwork.
11. The instructor must complete a Master Entry Inventory Sheet prior to arrival at the competition site. This inventory list will be given to the Competition Manager upon arrival. All forms and information may be downloaded from the League Website.

INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

1. The artwork will not be covered by insurance at any stage of the festival. This includes handling, transporting, storing, or displaying.
2. Each entry form/disclaimer must be completed and signed by the student and teacher.
3. The Subsection/Section Festival Manager and assistants will take every step possible to safeguard the artwork during handling, transporting, storing, and displaying, but neither the MSHSL, its employees, volunteers nor the school's art instructors shall be liable for loss or damage of the artwork.

Visual Arts – Judges

1. Selection of Judges
 - A. The Region and/or Section Committee select Judges for the Section Festivals.
 - B. Three to six judges are recommended, depending on the number of schools taking part and the number of entries expected. If you have more schools and entries, consider adding additional judges. Example: A section has 200 entries; 11-12 judges may be needed.
 - C. Visual Arts Judges must meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - 1) A minimum of three years post-degree teaching and/or experience as an artist/educator
 - 2) Possess a personality which will assure the giving of constructive criticism and encouragement to young artists; and
 - 3) Possess a vocabulary which will make it possible for her/him to record her/his impressions and suggestions clearly and concisely.
 - D. If judges are high school or college educators, it is highly recommended that no more than two judges should be from the same school.
 - E. The use of secondary and/or post-secondary art educators as judges is most desirable. They will understand the educational relevancy of this festival as well as an understanding of the developmental, emotional, and motivational factors that go into making art at the high school level.
2. Instructions for Visual Arts Judges

The Section Visual Arts Festival is designed to stimulate interest in Visual Arts. This is not a competitive event, in that students do not compete against each other. Instead, each student takes part against the established standards. Ratings/awards will be made solely based on performance and not based on how many or how few participants there are of a given ability within a category. We trust that you have a well-established set of standards before you begin judging the first contestant.

In judging the Festival, we ask that you adhere to the following:

- A. Each judge is employed to aid in a program of Visual Arts education. The results of his/her judging can either be a help or a hindrance in this education. Care should be exercised in the wording of your statements in order that they may be detailed, constructive and helpful. There is no place in Minnesota contests for unkind, sarcastic, caustic, or other objectionable remarks. Be considerate in the type of comments given orally or written. Adverse criticisms should be given when needed, but presented in a constructive and helpful manner.
- B. Judges must keep in mind that they are judging high school students and not college, university, or professional groups. Judging should be firm, but fair. Students will accept an adverse decision if they feel the judge has given them fair and unbiased attention.
- C. No person is to converse with a judge while he/she is carrying out his/her duties, and judges are instructed to inform any person approaching them that they have been requested to advise such person of this regulation.
- D. Judges are not to sit together or to discuss the artworks, but will give independent ratings and comments, without consulting with other judges.

- E. The Judges must comment on the critique sheet and include what the student needs to do to improve their artwork. Be sure to give positive feedback along with criticism and make all critical comments constructive. There should be a definite correlation between the rating and the criticisms and suggestions made. **AVOID GENERALIZED STATEMENTS - BE SPECIFIC.**
- F. Be on time for the Festival - judges will normally meet 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to the start of judging.
- G. Unless told otherwise, judges need to be present to supply verbal feedback to students, after the judging has been completed. This can be the most valuable part of the Festival!
- H. A score or rating for each artwork must be provided by each judge unless you are given specific instructions to the contrary.
- I. All artwork must be original. If the work is inspired by images not the students' own, the work must be significantly changed. If there is any doubt as to the originality of the work, the instructor should not submit it. If judges suspect that an artwork does not meet this requirement, they should contact the festival manager. Artworks that violate this standard are not to be related.
- J. Freedom of choice is granted to all schools, in selecting subject matter used for artwork entered into the festival. Good judgment must be used in the determination of the work's subject matter and appearance. As a school-sponsored, educational activity, vulgar or plainly offensive material is not allowed. Instructors are expected to edit and adjust the subject matter and appearance of the artwork to meet local and community standards.
- K. The festival manager handles the enforcement of contest rules. Judges and teachers should report rule violations to the festival manager.
- L. Judges are not allowed to discuss with students their plans for attending college or university before, during, or after the time they are judging said students in any Visual Arts Festival.

It is most desirable to seek the help of secondary and/or post-secondary level art educators. They will understand the educational relevancy of this festival as well as an understanding of the developmental, emotional, and motivational factors that go into making art at the high school level.

Teacher recommendations

It is recommended that educators urge their students to use bulleted-responses to on their artist statements in conjunction with the four criteria listed for the statements on the adjudication form. This will assist the adjudicator to more-accurately assess the student's statements. Teachers should provide students with those criteria in advance to help facilitate what the students are writing.

Visual Arts Judging Criteria

The judges will use the following judging criteria to help guide Judges evaluating and selecting the outstanding secondary school artworks in their Section Festival. An Adjudication Scoring Sheet will be made available to help judges in scoring student work. This is to be completed, with comments, and returned to students (by section manager) at the conclusion of the Visual Arts Competition.

- **SUPERIOR**

To receive a **SUPERIOR** rating, a student shall (a) demonstrate a *precise and fluent* knowledge of the tools, skills, elements, principles, and history of art; (b) make artistic choices based on *expanding, transforming, or combining options* to improve or refine the artwork, and (c) creative

expression through the *synthesized use* of elements, principles, skills, techniques and materials in the creation of the artwork.

- **EXCELLENT**

To receive an **EXCELLENT** rating, a student shall (a) demonstrate *accurate and articulate* knowledge of the tools, skills, elements, principles and history of art;

(b) make artistic choices based on *evidence* to improve or refine the artwork, and (c) creatively express through *crafted or modified use* of elements, principles, skills, techniques and materials in the creation of the artwork.

Visual Arts – Awards

1. Certificates will be printed by the school for all entries receiving a Superior or Excellent rating at the Subsection or Section Festival.
2. Medals may be bought by the school or region for those receiving a Superior rating at the Subsection or Section Festival.
3. Each Judge will select an artwork to receive the Judge's Award/Best of Site/Spotlight on the Arts at the Section level.